HONZUKI NO GEKOKUJOU

by Miya Kazuki & Suzuka

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Honzuki no Gekokujou ch02

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Sigh.
These last three days have been horrible...
Chapter 2 Books Are Unobtainable

Clang
Clang

And then my fever came back.
steam...

After that...
After I realized there were neither books nor even words or paper in the house. I fell into despair and just kept crying.

Actually...
This whole lifestyle is horrible.

And my father, who I haven't gotten used to yet, strips me and changes my clothes for me...
Hey, Main!
Eeeeeeek
Our "toilet" is a chamberpot in our room, and they just dump it outside our window.
Thump
Thump
What passes for common sense here is just too different, it's failure after failure...
Sigh...
Looks like I won't survive here unless I throw away the maiden's heart and dignity I had when I was Urano.
Since there aren't any baths here, I at least get a rub down every day.
Turi and my mother give me strange looks, but it still makes me feel better.
But, there were a few small victories.

And...
Maïn, what are you doing?
slip
My hair's in the way, so I was thinking of tying it up but it isn't going very well.
Well, your hair is straight, after all.
Yeah, even when I tie it up with some string, it just comes loose.
slide
I think I'll just have it cut.
WHA-AATZ!
BUT MAÏN YOUR HAIR IS SO BEAU-TIFUL! IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE NIGHT SKY!!
Really?
Hmm...
Oh I know!

EH?!
THAT'S MY DOLL'S LEG!
ガラ
ガラ
?
Can I break this bit here off?
ぽしっ
MAÏN YOU'RE SO MEAN!
THAT'S MY TREASURE!
If that's all you need, you just need someone to cut you some wood. I can do that...
Didn't realize it was that important.
Ahh... I'm sorry.
sob
sob
Um...
I need a thin stick of wood like that doll's leg.
Where can I get one?
I need a [hairpin]... wait, that word won't work...

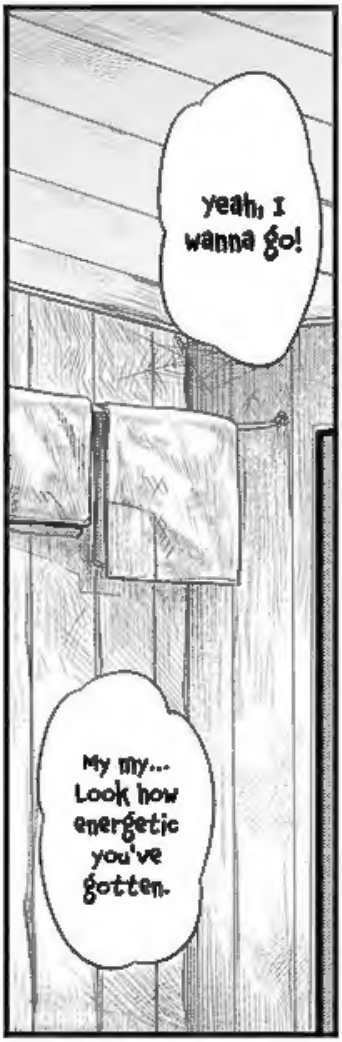
TWIST
chink
chink
Some-thing like this?
pass
yes! Thank you, Turi!
WAIT... HEY, MAÏN!
MAÏN, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
ONLY ADULTS CAN PUT ALL THEIR HAIR UP LIKE THAT.
Really ...?
squeeze
Whoa...
Turi, there's no [mirror] here so I can't tell. Does this look okay?
How did you do that...?

flutter
twist
squeeze
How about this?
Well I guess it's okay but...
Looking from the front it looks like you've got a stick stuck in your head. You're okay with that?
Yeah it's fine, it's fine.
And so...
I got myself a hairpin.
But next I have to do something about my hair...
It's all greasy and it feels nasty.

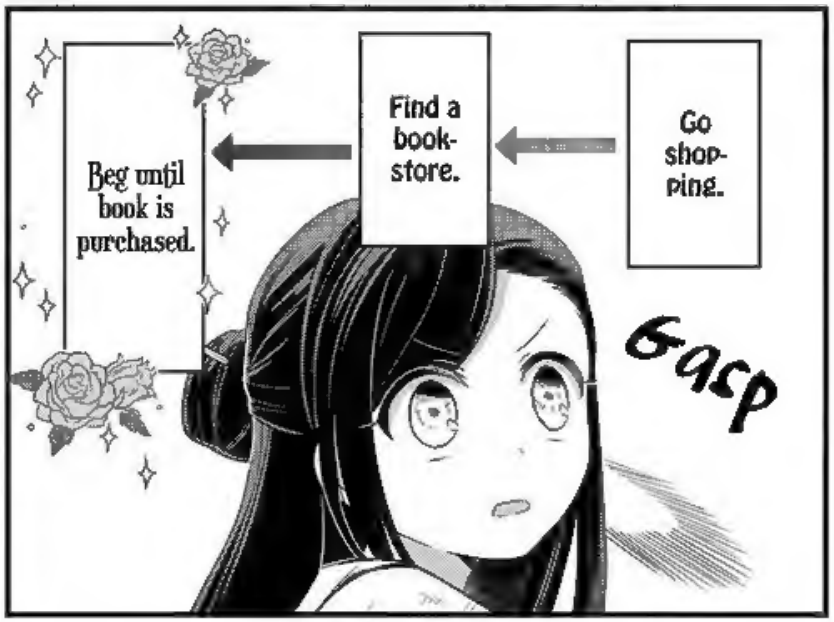
Now I just need to make myself some shampoo.
Main, how are you feeling?
Looks like your fever has gone down.
Are you feeling a little more energetic?
Pat
Pat
Yep.
Well if you're feeling better, since today is a market day, how about you come with me?
clap
Shop-ping?
But Mom, didn't you say this was when your work at the dyer's is the busiest...?
Well, I asked some of the others to take over for me as a favor so I could take the day off.
Turi said you were probably crying that day because you were so lonely lately.

Turi is going to head out to the woods with Ralph and the others, but it's probably a little too early for you since you just got over your fever.

I'm sorry...
When you're sick, it's hard being alone.
It's all right dear.
I was depressed because I couldn't find any books. It didn't really have anything to do with being lonely because you weren't there.
I'm really sorry about this whole thing.
twitch twitch


yeah, I wanna go!
My my... Look how energetic you've gotten.

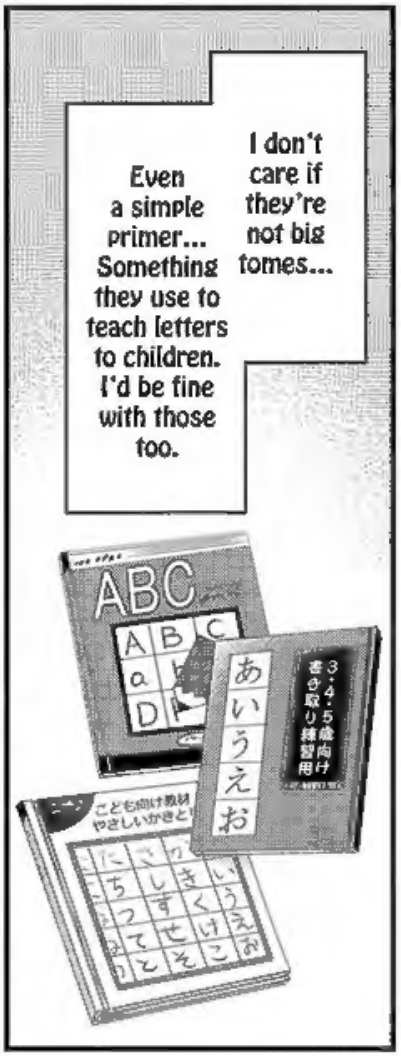
Would you like to come shopping with Mama?


Go shopping.
Find a bookstore.
Beg until book is purchased.
GASP

There may not be books in the house, but I might find some out there!

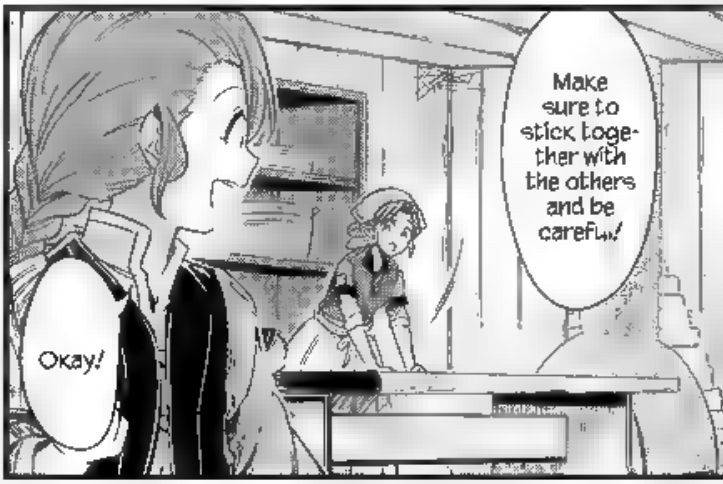
GLOW
That's 'cuz it's gonna be so fun!
Fufufu

If I crank up the cuteness and beg, I should at least be able to get a picture book out of it, right?
Ufufun, can't wait!
Mufufufu


I don't care if they're not big tomes...
Even a simple primer... Something they use to teach letters to children. I'd be fine with those too.
ABC
あいうえお

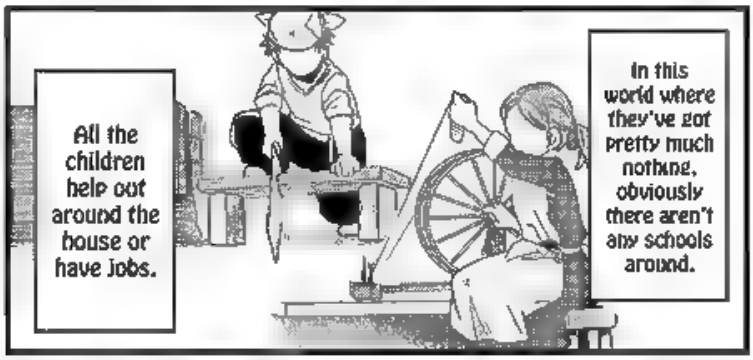
Mama!
I'm headed out!

From what I've heard, she goes out to get firewood, as well as fruit and mushrooms.
Do your best, Turi!
My nutrition is counting on you!
Splash


Make sure to stick together with the others and be careful!
Okay!

She's not going out to the forest to play. It's actually a type of chore...

Okay, let's go shopping.


All the children help out around the house or have jobs.
In this world where they've got pretty much nothing, obviously there aren't any schools around.

If I have a choice, I'd just love to be an apprentice librarian or an apprentice at a bookstore.

ムーン
カチャ
Eww
AND SO NARROW!
AND IT STINKS!!
IT'S COLD!
Hurry up and jump on.
Main...

squeeze
Oh, okay.
Come on, hurry up.
You can't walk all the way to the market.
So you get to ride on Mama's back.
CLACK CLACK
I think I should at least be able to walk that far though.

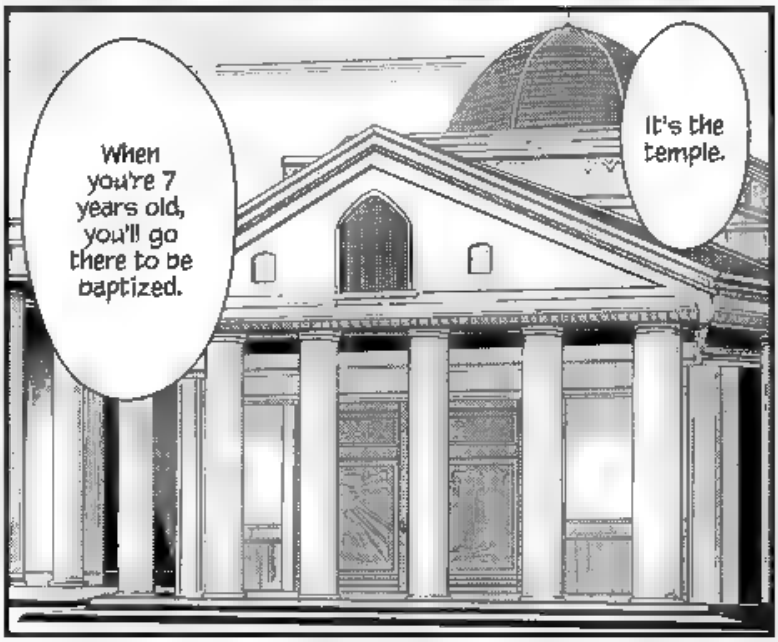
Wow...
Gape

It's just like those collections of photos of old European towns I saw.
Amazing!
キョロ
キョロ
What are you talking about? said we're going to the market, didn't I?
Mom, what kind of store are we going to?
The shops are for people with a lot of money.
They aren't the kind of place we go often.

Is that a castle?
Mom...

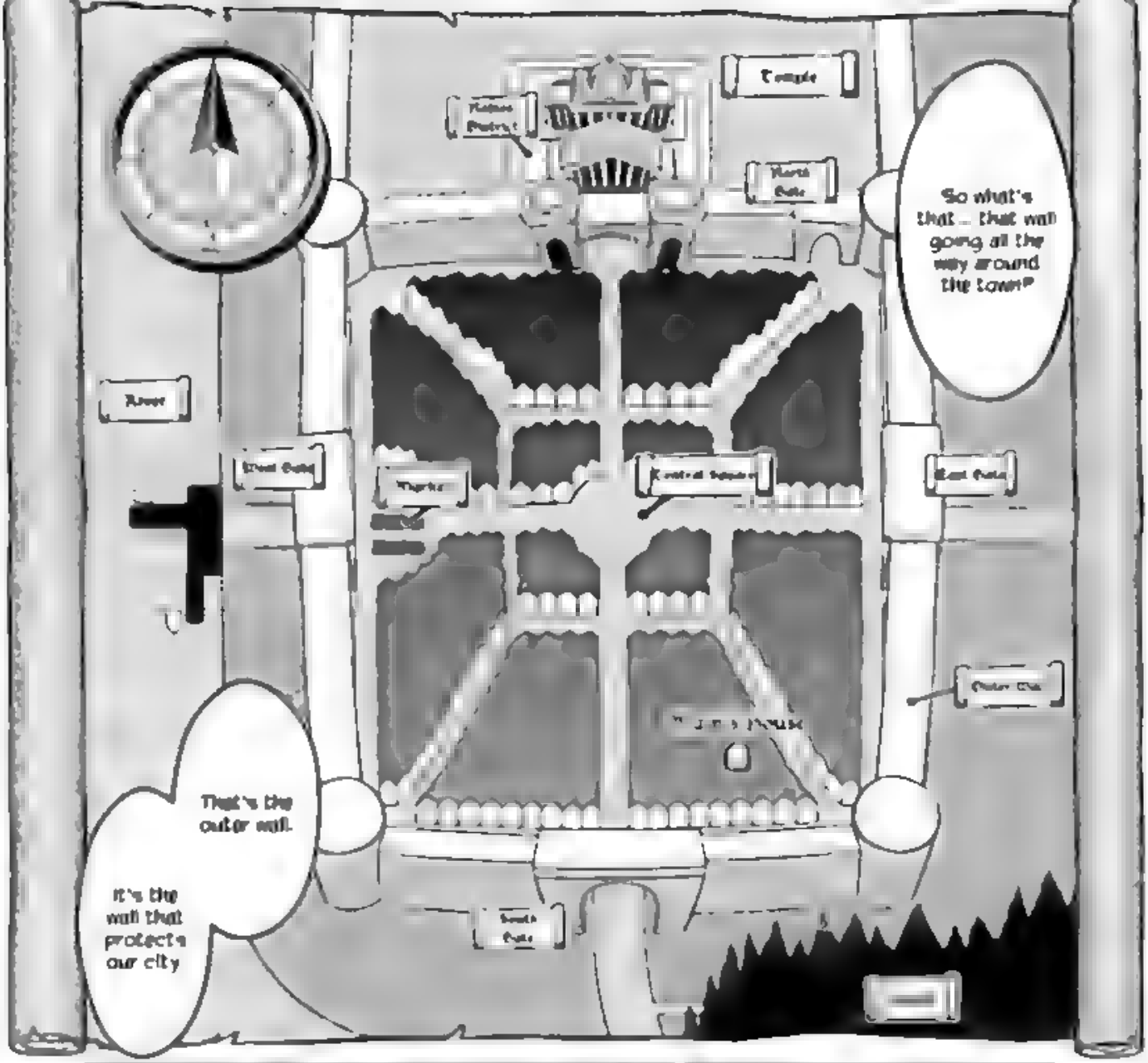
So I guess if there's a bookstore, it'd be among these one-floor shops...

Those are the castle walls.
On the other side is the castle where our lord lives, and all the mansions of the nobles.
Not that we see much of them, though.


When you're 7 years old, you'll go there to be baptized.
It's the temple.

That's a big gate, huh?

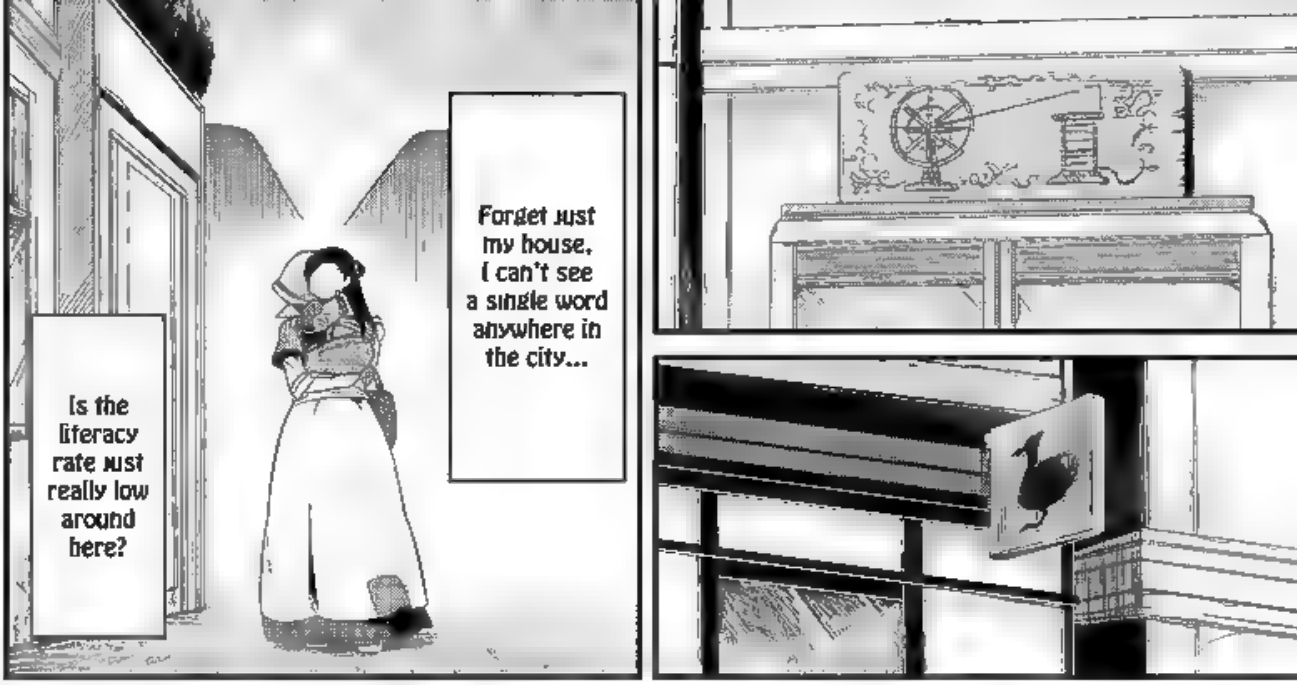
Hmm...
Enforced religion, huh... Not really a big fan.


So what's that... that wall going all the way around the town?
That's the outer wall.
It's the wall that protects our city

Gunther... That's my Dad...
Main's memories told me he works as a soldier.
So I guess more specifically he guards the gate

And you know Gunther is a guard at the South Gate, right, Main?

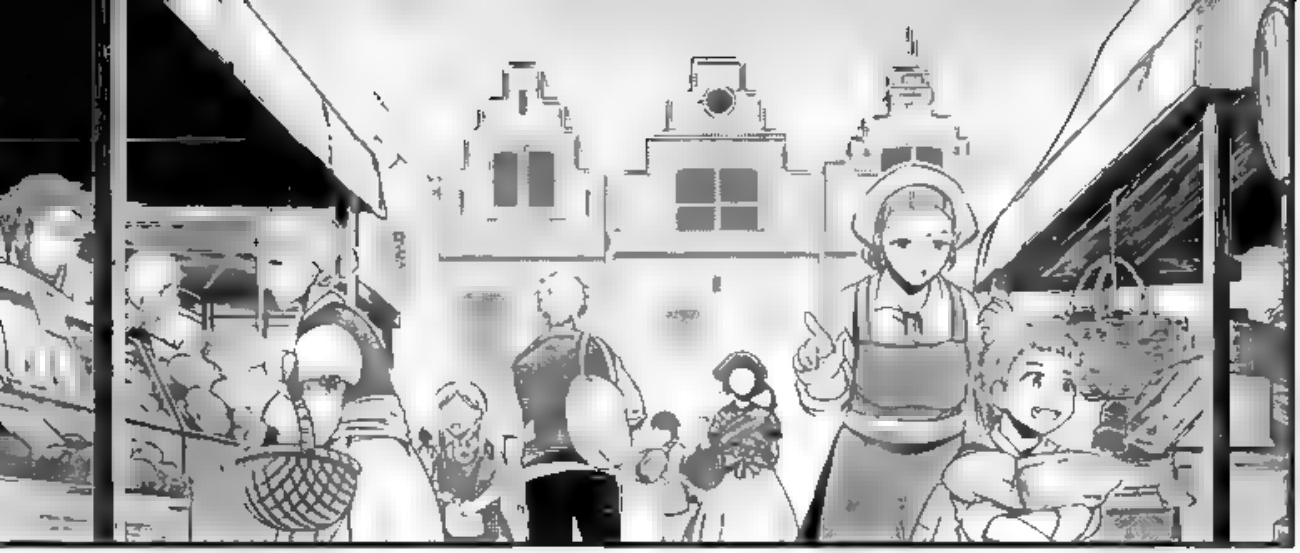
But, setting that aside... This town has a castle with a lord and a big wall around it...
So that makes this a proper city.
Judging by the size of the city and the amount of people walking around I don't think the scale is too large, but...
I can't really use places like Tokyo or Yokohama as a comparison.
I can't just ask my family every single question I have. They'll probably start wondering about me.
So is this city big?! Is it small?!
Someone with authority come and tell me!
Hold on properly, Main.
Actually ...


Is the literacy rate just really low around here?
Forget just my house, I can't see a single word anywhere in the city...

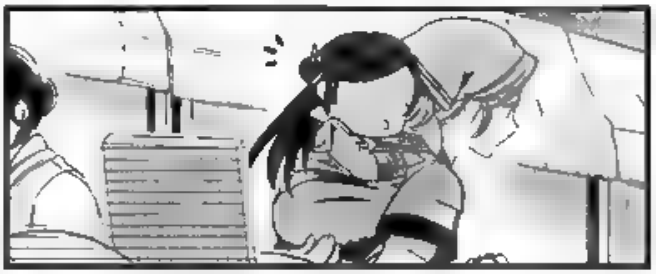
Look, Main, here's the market.
There aren't any words...
M-Mom...
Um...

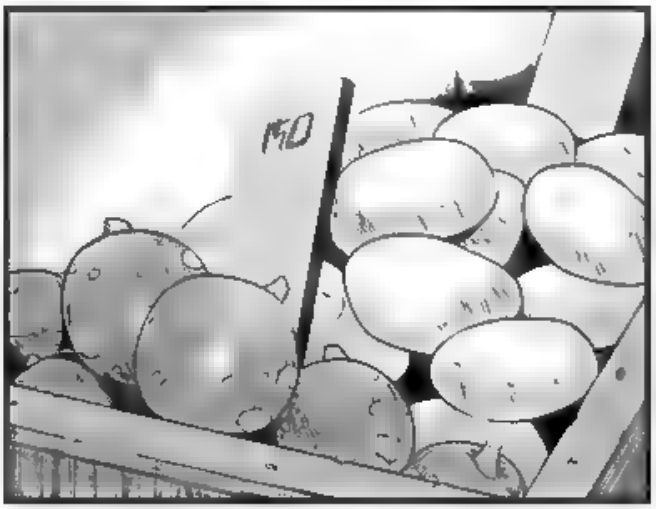
Wait, could it be that they just don't have an alphabet at all here...?

I hadn't even considered that possibility.
Now wait a second..
Hey...



MOM, WHAT'S THAT!
WHAT'RE THOSE WOODEN THINGS?!





Num-bers!
50

It tells you how much money you have to pay to buy these things.
Ahh, those have the prices written on them.

.....
150
So then this one means 30 rion?

What's written there?
Hey... Hey Mom!

Well this one says 20, and this one...

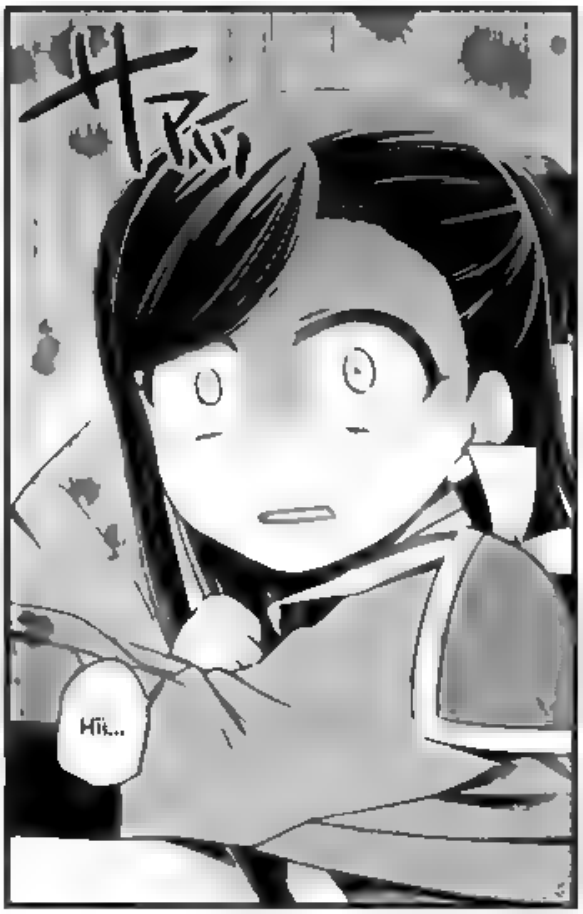
At any rate, looks like they do have numbers and letters here, so that's a relief...

Humph.
That's right!
Amazing, Main! I can't believe you remembered them at that quickly!

A miracle at 10, a genius at 15...
and then once you're over 20, you're just a normal person to others.
Wait, did I just mark myself as a genius child?
I'll take these.
Thank you.

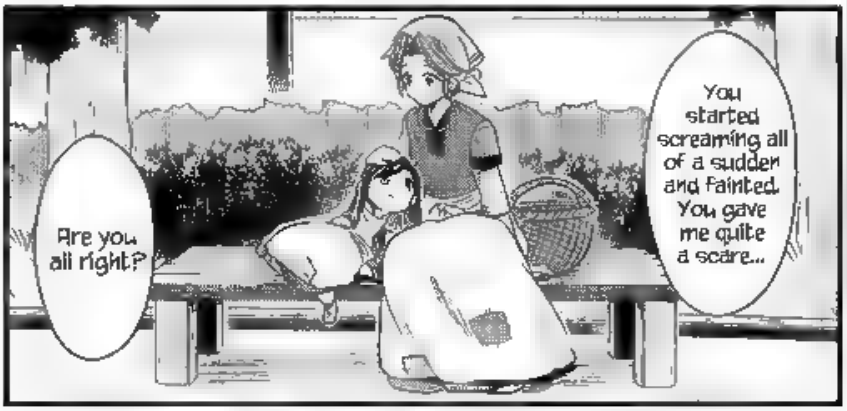
We need to get ready for the winter, right?
How come we need so much?
Okay, next up is some meat.
We need to buy some so we can start salting and smoking it.
It's the time of the year when there's the most meat on the market.
This is the time of year when all the farms in the area keep what they can take care of during the winter and sell off the rest.
The snow is pretty bad as well. The number of days the market is open shrinks down quite a bit.
Well, there aren't many vegetables that grow during the winter.
Um, and does the market shut down during the winter too...?
ぷぅん
What the heck is this stench...
Salt Cured
Smoked
So storing your own food is common sense around here...
And of course there was nothing like a refrigerator back home.

HI GYAAAAAAAA!
AHHHHHH!


Hii...

MAIN?! WHAT'S WRONG?
AHH HH!

Chuck
Ah...
Chuck
Chuck
Eek
I'm done...
This is too much...
MAÏN ?!
Hmm


Are you all right?
You started screaming all of a sudden and fainted. You gave me quite a scare...

Maïn,...

Maïn, wake up.
Uhh... Mew?
blink

Very not all right...

I'm f-

All the good cuts will be gone if we don't hurry. Stop fussing.
I'm traumatized!
NO-NO-NO-NO WAY NO HOW!!

Well, okay, Maïn.
If you're feeling better let's go get that meat.
UEE EEH?!

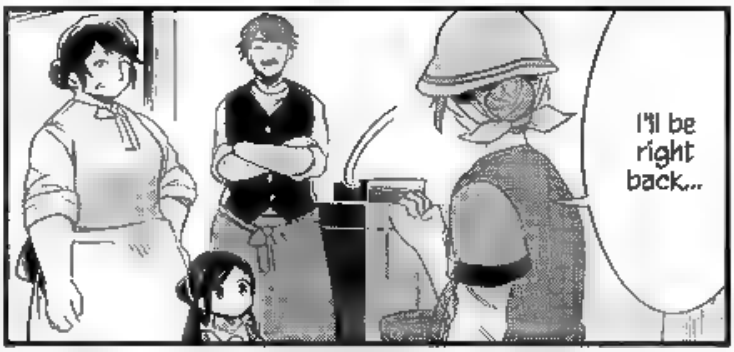
Um..
I'm still not feeling very well...
I'll wait here for you, so you can go on without me.

I'm feeling a little unwel...
I promise I won't cause you any trouble. I'll be very good.
Um, Ma'am...
Could I stay here for a while?
ガチャ
What? But...
とた
とた
If you're worried, could let her wait in my shop.
If she's in the back, I doubt anyone's going to run in and grab her.
smile
Well, well... She's quite a little lady for one so small, isn't she?
It's fine, go and get your shopping done and come on back.
She's feeling a little under the weather, so it would be tough lugging her around, right?

Main, I want you to wait right here.
Okay!

Sigh

I'll wait! I'll be good!
.....


I'll be right back...

No problem.
Thank you.

dash
I managed to get out of it...
dash

This is a... general goods store, I guess?
Is that a book...?
Could that really be a book?!

Score!!
Ah
That's a book.
HEY, S-SIR!
THAT!! WHAT'S THAT THING?!
I finally found one! Books do exist here!!
Is this your first time seeing a book, little lady?
yeah!!
A shop?
There isn't one.
ドキドキ
Hey Sir. Do you know a shop that sells these things?

But, how come there aren't book stores if you've got books?
Huh?
What...?
The only reason I have this is because a noble pawned it to me so he could pay back a loan. I can't even really sell it.
The only people who would even think of buying something this expensive are the nobles.
コーン
These books are things that have to be written one by one.
They're so expensive to make they're not really something that can be sold so easily.
So that's how it is...
C'mon, God, why'd you have to make me a commoner?!
むすっ
So you're telling I could have been reading already if I had been reborn as a noble instead?
Grrr... Stupid nobles!

If it comes to this, I'll just have to be sincere...
Clench...
And when I say sincere...
Begging Pose
PLEASE!
PLEASE LET ME TOUCH THAT BOOK!
I UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN'T BUY IT, BUT PLEASE JUST LET ME TOUCH IT.

I'M BEGGING YOU!!
EVEN JUST THE SCENT OF THE INK WOULD BE ENOUGH TO TIDE ME OVER!
I JUST WANT TO RUB MY CHEEK AGAINST IT AND SMELL IT A LITTLE!

glance
Huh...?

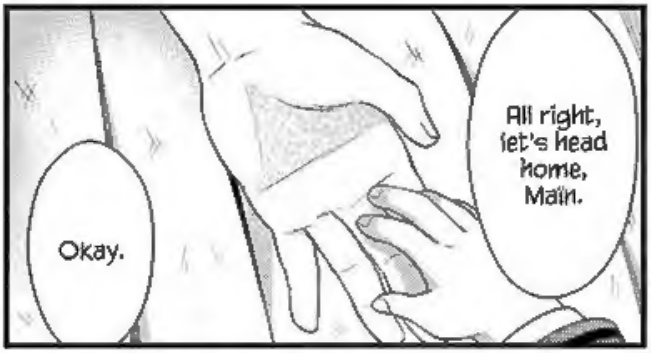
WHAT, WHY?!
ガーン
You're not making much sense, but I'm not going to let you touch that book.

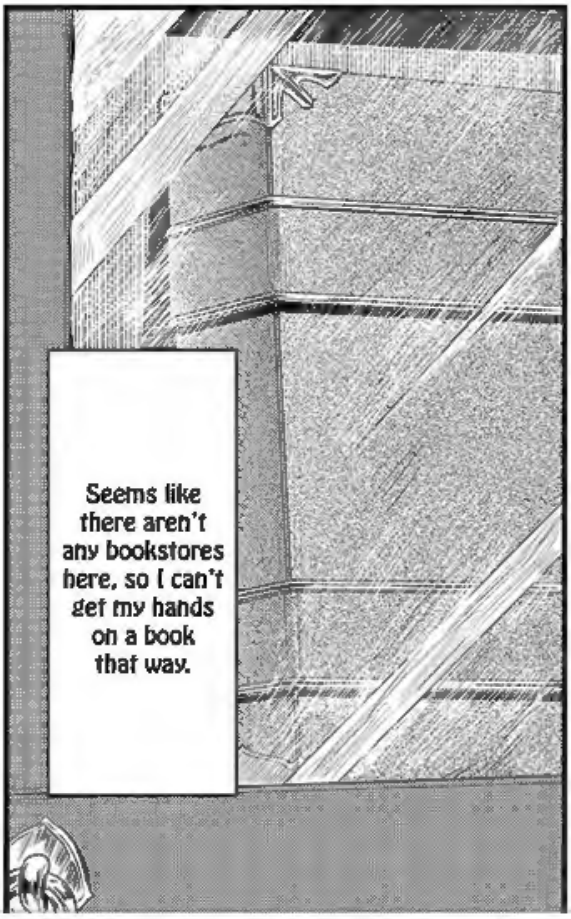
STARE...
HUHHH?!

I JUST WANT TO FLIP THROUGH IT A LITTLE!
C'MON...
No!
UWAAAAAA
ひぇ
Thank you for watching my daughter.
Why are you sitting down like that... Are you not feeling well again?
Once we're home we'll put you to bed.
Mom ...
Main, sorry to keep you waiting.
I finally found a book, but I couldn't even touch it...
I...Uhh.
C'mon, stand up.
Main, have you said thanks to the nice man?

Don't... mention it.

Sir, thanks for letting me wait in your shop.


All right, let's head home, Main.
Okay.


Seems like there aren't any bookstores here, so I can't get my hands on a book that way.

Guess I'll just have to make them myself!
Well, if they can't be bought, what can I do?
I won't lose to this world!
I'm definitely getting my hands on a book.
Chapter 2 - Books Are Unobtainable END

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